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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Statement submitted by Hadassah: Women's Zionist Organization of America, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Women, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, International Inner Wheel, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Salvation Army, Servas International, Socialist International Women, Soroptimist International, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, Women's International Zionist Organization and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2009/1.



Statement*

The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels

The undersigned non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, welcome the opportunity to review the agreed conclusions of the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 27 February to 10 March 2006. Their implementation, however, as well as of the instruments and documents mentioned therein, is still far from satisfactory.

The undersigned member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women therefore once again urge Governments to:

- Set specific targets and timelines and implement measures to increase substantially the number women in decision-making positions;
- Encourage greater involvement of indigenous and ethnic minority women in decision making at all levels;
- Support studies on girls' and women's participation in, and impact on, decision-making and the decision-making environment.

The undersigned member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women also urge Governments, in partnership with national bodies, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations to:

- Take positive action to create opportunities for girls and women to gain education, specific training and practical experience in strategic decision-making in order to build a critical mass of competent women leaders, executives and managers in strategic decision-making positions;
- Create or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to monitor women's access to senior levels of decision-making;
- Increase women's participation in, and access to, decision-making in the media and new technologies of communication.

* Issued without formal editing.